

Morristown Conservation Commission

May 20, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Meeting was held in the Town Office Building with Jenifer, Mariah and Jess on Zoom.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon, David Stevens, Richard Sargent, Jess Zehngut, Jenifer Andrews and Mariah Keagy.

Guests: Denise Green, Meg Taylor

The April meeting minutes were approved. There was no treasurer's report. Meeting minutes will be reviewed 10 days after they are sent or revised by the Chair at the next meeting.

New Business:

- (1) Raise the Blade Discussion with Denise and Meg. It is called "Loving your Lawn" and is to reduce climate change, reduce fossil fuel use, and improve water quality and pollinator habitat. It is an education and outreach effort in several forms: Raise the Blade means cut at 3" and leave the clippings on the lawn. Participants can put a sign on their lawn. Lawn to Meadow means convert unneeded lawn to a wildflower meadow and Mow Electric means encourage the use of electric lawn equipment. An online seminar for Lawn to Meadow will be held on Saturday. Local companies will also demonstrate electric equipment. The Town of Hyde Park will be upgrading to electric mowing for town lands. The group discussed how we should get Towns to adopt the message and hire contractors who practice it. Morrisville has 9 public cemeteries where it could be done. Church Hill mowing is a local electric contractor. MCC will assist with a posting in Front Porch Forum, a letter to the News and Citizen and outreach to the Selectboard/Village Trustees and the Cemetery Committee.

Old Business:

- (1) **Town Forest** – volunteers and the committee built 3 of the 7 bridges on May 8 on the South Boundary Brook Trail. There are 4 more areas to do (2) bridges and (2) corduroy and the next scheduled work date is Saturday June 5. The question about hiring the Northwoods Center trail crew was discussed. The Committee voted at this time not to hire the crew. Jim will contact them and tell them we may be interested in crew time next year. There will be a meeting with DFP about the parking lot on May 26 on the Bryant Pond Rd. Shannon Morrison from VTDEC will also attend about wetlands. Brent would like to do a site layout for the parking area on this day. The cost is estimated to be \$20,000 and the Selectboard has approved the expenditure. There has been no word from DFP on cost sharing.
- (2) **Bugbee Springs** – Ron has a survey plat prepared for the Village Trustees. One trustee has said he would like to conserve the land.

- (3) **Kenfield Island walk** – we may walk the island with the abutting landowner Craig Brown. He is not interested in public access to the property. Ron will send a date.
- (4) **Photo contest** – the contest deadline is mid-August. River Arts is doing two photo walks and another is scheduled for the Rail Trail. More participation from children is needed.
- (5) **Slope Zoning** – There will be a discussion on Tuesday with the Planning Council on Kristen's language for slope protection in the Town zoning.
- (6) **Noise** – the Planning Council accepted Kristen's language about noise for the Town Plan.
- (7) **Greenup** - will be discussed in June.
- (8) **Catamount Presentation** – Ron is trying to get in touch with Sue Morse about a presentation. Possible dates are mid-October. It would be at PA.
- (9) **Native American Crafts Presentation** – there is the possibility of Justin Sitarra (?) giving a small presentation on native American crafts or a workshop on how to make them.
- (10) **Stowe Land Trust**- the next Stowe Land Trust project is to confirm Ricketson Farm. Brent made the motion to contribute \$500 towards the fund raising effort. Dick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
- (11) **FPF Donation** – We will discuss this at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary

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TOWN OF MORRISTOWN